

## REMARKS

The above-identified application was filed on the same day as U.S. Application Serial No. 10/677,735. Accompanying this amendment is an information disclosure statement which makes the references in the concurrently filed application of record in this case.

Claims 1, 5-9 and 11 have been amended. Claims 1-27 remain in the application.

Claims 5-9, 24 and 26 were identified as being drawn to allowable subject matter (i.e., they are identified as being objected to for depending on a rejected base claim). Claims 5-9 have been amended into independent form to include the features of original claim 1 and should now be in immediate condition for allowance. Claims 24 and 26 in fact are independent claims and therefore have not been amended. Claims 24 and 26 therefore should be in immediate condition for allowance as no prior art reference show the combination of materials recited therein, or pre-dissolving one of the compounds. None of claims 5-9, 24 and 26 would be anticipated by any reference of record and would not be obvious over any combinations of references of record.

Claims 25 and 27 remain the application unchanged, and the undersigned awaits consideration of rejoining the non-elected claims at the end of prosecution as discussed in the last office action.

Claims 1-4 and 10-23 were rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,960,633 to Wynne. Claims 1-4 and 7-8 were rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,051,682 to Debrabander. Both rejections are traversed in view of the amendments above and remarks herein.

Claim 1 requires that the chemical agent associate with the fluoropolymer at at least one of the locations along the chemical backbone. In addition, the chemical agent/fluoropolymer blend is agitated or masticated to form free flowing powder with particles that include the chemical agent in chemical agent and associated fluoropolymer. In operation, the chemical agent becomes associated with the fluoropolymer and assumes its crystalline form, and then is fragmented or fractured through agitation or mastication, thereby creating particles of the chemical agent with fluoropolymer associated therewith.

Page 4 of the application lines 17-19 discusses the formation of free flowing powders where the particles are polymer coated chemical agent particles. Page 12 of the application discusses free flowing powders being formed in examples 1-3 (see lines 18-19). With reference to Tables 2 and 3 and the text on pages 13 and 14 of the application, it can be seen that free flowing powders are created when the chemical agent associates with the fluoropolymer, but not when polymer does not associate with the chemical agent (see lines 15-19 on page 14). Table 4 on page 17 of the application shows the formation of chemical blends using chemical agents and The polymers different from those shown in Tables 1 and 2.

The Wynne reference does not show or suggest associating a crystalline solid with a fluoropolymer. Further, Wynne contemplates processing a swollen polymer by molding, extruding or sintering. In sharp contrast, as amended, claim 1 requires agitating or masticating to obtain a free flowing powder where the chemical agent is fractured into small pieces and drags or pulls the polymer chains with the pieces to yield a particulate of chemical agent and fluoropolymer. As such, none of the claims are anticipated by the Wynne reference.

The Debrabender reference is focused on reacting monomers to form polymers. This is not what occurs in the present invention. In the present invention, the chemical agent associates with a functional group in the polymer. Similarly, Debrabender uses the carbon dioxide as fluid medium for the polymerization, but makes no mention of impregnating an already formed fluoropolymer with a chemical agent. Also, like Wynne, Debrabender does not the formation of free flowing powder of particles containing a chemical agent in crystalline form. As such, none of the claims are anticipated by Debrabender.

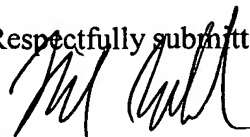
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered, that claims 1-27 be allowed, and that the application be passed to issue.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

A provisional petition is hereby made for any extension of time necessary

for the continued pendency during the life of this application. Please charge any fees for such provisional petition and any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-2041.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael E. Whitham", is written over the typed name.

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